

ON THE REVIEWER'S TABLE

Rose White Youth.
By Doris Willard. John Lane Company, of New York and London. \$1.50.

Robert Hichens's verse inscribed to "Rose White Youth" on the title page of this book at once gives the clue to its motif.

The story begins at an English boarding school, where an epidemic among the younger pupils causes the elder girls to be sent to their homes, or rather, away from the school. One of the girls, fifteen years old, with red hair and a marked individuality, becomes the heroine of the book. She spends a part of her enforced holiday with a schoolmate before going on to her father's country place, and the description of her visit is written with a natural and pretty art, which displays the girl's heroine as a precocious little coquette, and here a love-making episode with a boyish sweetheart as a wholly human and tender incident.

The strong point of the whole book is the unerring knowledge of human nature, with which the writer lays a subtle sure finger on the complicated motives that produce entanglements in the second part of the story, after Miss Fifteen-year-old has gained the shelter of her own roof-tree.

Here it is that "Rose White Youth" forgets her boy sweetheart. What chance, indeed, has the boy when he is outwitted by a man who has read through a volume of experience, while the lad is just turning his first leaves? And what can a girl in her early teens avail against a wooer who has run the whole gamut of emotion, and knows every phase of womanly weakness and every avenue of approach to a little maiden's heart?

How sure the end of such a courtship, from the beginning, the balance being all on one side! And how certain that all chances for happiness in any courtship must be marred when so spiteful and envious a woman as the sister-in-law of the girl heroine gets an opportunity to intermeddle and cause anguish and heartbreak!

Alas for sweet "Rose White Youth," the most beautiful thing in the world and the most loved. The romance in which its fleeting episodes are recorded is a strong piece of work, for it puts life and realism before the eyes of the reader, penetrating to the home circle of "Rose White Youth" and piercing the disguises of the many influences for good and evil that surround her.

A shrewd elderly woman, with gray hair, humorous eyes and a young heart, is one of the most attractive and comprehending of the group of people to whom one is introduced in Doris Willard's novel. One puts it down with a smile as a piece of tribute to the swift passing of youth from time to eternity, and its epitaph comes back to mind as a sad refrain in the words:

"Rose White Youth, passionate, pale—
A single stream in a flowery dale—
A fairy prince in a prosy tale—
There's nothing in youth so finely frail
As Rose White Youth!"

By the Shores of Arcady.
By Isabel Graham Eaton. The Outlook Publishing Co., of New York. \$1.50.

The Arcady where tired minds and hearts find rest and happiness is found in this book on the Maine coast, in a community known by the not very euphonious title of Goose Creek. A painter woman, tired of the sights and sounds of the city, goes on a quest, and finds what she is looking for somewhat near the scenes of an ancient Arcady, where Evangeline and

Gabriel lived and loved in years gone by.

When a studio has been set up in the home of Mrs. Jones, who takes boarders at Goose Creek, the aid of a rural Jehu, Joe Myers by name, is invoked. The painter woman visits the one centre of industry that Goose Creek can boast—a pig factory—and a model is found in the person of a little French Canadian. The name of the child has been corrupted from Hilarie Beaujeau into Eli Badger, but the painter woman recognized his lack of identification with the people around him, and little by little, gathered from the child the name of his former home and that of the good priest who baptized him.

She wrote to the priest, and found out that her little protégée had been kidnapped. He was restored to his rightful guardians and sent to school in accordance with the terms of his grandfather's will, though he stoutly resisted to the last a separation from his beloved painter woman.

One of the most pathetic and tenderest of the several little romances whose pages unfold, Goose Creek is that connected with a visit paid by the painter woman and little Hilarie to Miss Sparrell, of Sparrell House, Goose Creek. Miss Sparrell is an old-fashioned woman, wearing full skirts, leg-of-mutton sleeves, a broad lace collar, and a cameo pin after the fashion of sixty years ago. Her snow white curls and silver comb harmonize with other details in the picture she makes.

It transpires that the elder Hilarie Beaujeau, grandfather of the painter woman's little lad, had been the hero of an unrequited romance in Miss Sparrell's early life. The sweetheart had been separated, but after years of silence and separation, through the agency of the painter woman, a photograph taken of the old seigneur three years before his death, and a little packet containing a locket, with a girl's face inside of it, a yellowed silk glove, a withered rose and the lines in French: "My well beloved, always dear! Alas! she is dead to me!"—are given into Miss Sparrell's hands.

The book justifies its name. It is written with a freshness and sweetness of thought and expression that give it a genuine association with Arcady as opposed to the humdrum monotony of the working, everyday world around them.

The Spell.
By William Dana Orcutt. Harper & Bros., publishers. \$1.50.

A modern novel of the problem class, which presents some knotty social puzzles and solves them in an entirely original way. The book is rather old-fashioned and formal in style, even in its dealing with vital modern issues. The bare story in outline takes up its thread with the arrival of a young married couple from Boston in Florence, where the husband, Jack Armstrong, has spent some years previously in classic research. His bride, unlike himself, is not devoted to ancient literature. The young couple lease a villa and, soon thereafter, settling in Florence, are joined by a house party of friends, among whom are Mrs. Armstrong's uncle, genial Mr. Peabody, and Inez Thayer, of Boston, her most intimate friend.

"Trouble begins almost at once," Jack Armstrong resumes studies to which he is devoted at the Biblioteca Laurenziana and is assisted in them by Inez Thayer, who, unimpaired of the duty owed by her to her friend and hostess, at once falls violently in love with her friend's husband.

The young wife is neglected and abused. She realizes the condition of affairs and believes that her marriage to Jack Armstrong is a mistake and that he has found his real affinity and help in Inez Thayer.

Before any decisive action is taken, however, Jack Armstrong and Miss Thayer are thrown from an auto car, and the man gets a sharp rap on the head which seems to restore him to his senses. He tells his wife that he feels like a person who has been under the influence of a spell. He acknowledges his wrongdoing, and treats her forgiveness. Miss Thayer likewise breaks through the enthralling meshes of the spell. There is much mutual explanation and finally matters are mended.

The stand taken by the wife before this statue of reason, that it is her duty to renounce her happiness and

give up her claim on her husband in order that he may fulfill his manifest destiny and wed his affinity, may be noble in theory, but it is an impossible and unworkable idea in daily life, detracting from the merit of a book that, otherwise, has much to commend it.

The Gorgeous Isle.
By Gertrude Atherton. Doubleday, Page & Co., of New York. \$2.00.

The early nineteenth century, and the Bath House, a famous and fashionable hotel, erected in 1804, on the border of Nevis, a volcanic island in the Antilles, make the time and place of a characteristically strong story by Miss Atherton.

Her keen incisiveness of touch portrays graphically social conditions when Bath House was a favorite winter resort for English visitors, and the wide, tropical terraced gardens surrounding the hotel were gay with guests in brilliant attire.

To this hotel, when it was at the zenith of its popularity, in the early days of the Victorian era, came Mrs. Nunn, sister of one of the ladies of Queen Victoria's bed chamber and her niece, Anne Percy, fresh from her home in a remote quarter of England, and a little homesick for the wide moors surrounding it and the fresh air blowing over them.

Not far from the Bath House, on the outskirts of Charlestown, was the home of Ryan Warner, a poet and genius whose talent was wonderful, but whose excessive dissipation had barred him from society. Coincident with the arrival of Anne Percy was the forming of a conspiracy by the friends of Warner to win him from the evil of his ways and restore him to his position where he rightfully belonged, being a member of the English family on whom the diamond heart-shaped ring given by Queen Elizabeth to the Earl of Essex was bestowed.

The conspiracy was successful. Warner returned, fell in love with Anne Percy and married her. After the marriage the wife was called upon to choose between robbing her husband of his inheritance as a poet, or sacrificing her own happiness.

The scene in which she renounces self for love's sake is most dramatically written.

The story is one of unusual interest and power.

Lincoln and the Sleeping Sentinel.

Sold by L. E. Chittenden. Harper & Bros., of New York. \$2.50.

This is the story, well told, of President Lincoln's interference to save the life of William Scott, a Vermont volunteer in the United States army, who had been found asleep on his post and sentenced to execution. Scott was wounded during the Peninsula campaign in 1862, and when he was dying he asked his comrades to say to President Lincoln: "I know I am dying and I think of his kind face and thank him again, because he gave me the chance to fall like a soldier in battle."

Abraham Lincoln.
By Brand Whitlock. Small, Maynard & Company, of Boston.

This little volume belongs to the series of "Beacon Biographies," edited by M. A. DeWolfe Howe. The frontispiece is copied from a photograph owned by William Lloyd Garrison, of Massachusetts. A calendar of important dates at the beginning of the book, a bibliography with which it closes, and its convenient size render this book specially adapted to the needs of the average reader.

The Story Life of Lincoln.
By Wayne Whipple. John C. Winston Company, of Philadelphia.

This is a biography composed of 500 true stories told by Abraham Lincoln and his friends. The stories are selected from authentic sources and fitted together in order, forming a complete life history. The 150 illustrations are chosen as best from what art affords concerning Lincoln. Appended to the volume are short sayings.

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ings of Lincoln and a complete index. The box is beautifully gotten out.

BOOKS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Day Dreams of Greece.
By Charles Wharton Stork. J. B. Lippincott Company, of Philadelphia. 75 cents net.

The author of this little book says: "We have, of course, in English a multitude of poets treating of Greek myth: Marlowe, Keats, Morris, Tennyson, Swinburne, Phillips and others, not to mention Shakespeare and Milton, but not one of these had been a Greek, or, if he had, came to know actual Greece as a background. I preferred the conventional to the true Arcadia. Byron, who died in Greece, was the most un-Greek of poets. I saw, therefore, that I would be doing a quite new thing if I placed the old stories in their original setting. My attempt has been simply to restore these exotics to the soil whence they have been transplanted. In these poems I have striven to make the style as chaste as possible, while endeavoring to make the characters ring true, and to describe each scene vividly and picturesquely."

Power and Personality in Speaking.

By Grenville Kleiser, author of "How to Speak in Public." Funk & Wagnalls, of New York. \$1.25 net.

This new book gives practical suggestions and exercises on developing power and personality in speaking, physical power, power of voice, how to build a vocabulary, power in English style, how to develop the imagination, dramatic power in speaking, how to train the memory, power of illustration, power in conversation, power in extemporaneous speaking, power in holding an audience, power in silence and repose, power in prayer, etc. It also contains many selections for practice.

Sir Walter Raleigh.

By Frederick Ober. Harper & Bros., publishers. \$1.

The many romantic episodes in the life of Sir Walter Raleigh are graphically set forth in this volume by Mr. Ober. In addition, the complete narrative of his life is told simply and accurately. Every effort has been made to sift the truth from legend in telling the story of this heroic figure in the early history of America. The book belongs to a series that should be in the hands of every American boy of to-day.

A Child's Guide to Mythology.

By Helen Archibald Clarke. Child's Guide Series. The Baker & Taylor Company, of New York. \$1.25.

The object of the author in preparing this book has been to present the myths which are interesting to read, and which are at the same time best adapted to establish a foundation for the fascinating study of comparative mythology. The stories have been drawn from all sources, special stress being laid upon the myths of North American Indian origin.

Famous Stories of Sam Jones.

By George R. Stuart. Fleming H. Revell Company, of New York, publishers. \$1.

A collection of the best stories told by Sam Jones during his services in illustration of the purpose underlying his preaching. Mr. Jones possessed in a marked degree the power of arous-

ing laughter and tears among young and old alike.

A Chronicle of Friendships.

By Will H. Low. Charles Scribner's Sons, of New York, publishers. \$3.50.

Delightful reminiscences of the life of the art students in Paris and Barlizon and Paris, and in later meetings, makes some of the most delightful, amusing and altogether readable reminiscences that have appeared in years. Many other people of importance and later wide celebrity appear in the course of the chronicle, among them Jean Francois Millet, the great French painter, and Augustus Saint-Gaudens. This is the first book of reminiscences of this kind by an American artist who has ever been published, and opens a new field in our literature.

FEBRUARY MAGAZINES.

International Studio.

A new color from Henri Harpignie's painting, "The Lovers," appears as the frontispiece for the International Studio, a review of Harpignie's career being interestingly written by Henri Frantz. Henry W. Goodrich's summing up of the artist, Robert Ralston, and his work is charmingly illustrated by Ralston's picture, "The Open Fire," and other fine examples of his work. Architecture is treated by Edwin L. Lutyens, and gardens by G. L. Morris. "Studio Talk" is rich in interest as far as its text and pictures go, and "Art School Notes" display a mine of interesting art lover and scholar. Throughout the magazine is a model of beauty in typography, black and white and color work.

Putnam's.

James Grant Wilson's "Recollections of Lincoln" is the leading article of Putnam's, and is one of the best commemorative of the Lincoln centenary month. "The Broken Urn," by Emma Bell Miles, is delightful as a fine piece of short story art. William T. Grenfell has a wide sketch of "Sir Frederick Trevelyan," a surgeon who happens to be a man of genius, and "The Lounger's" notes are featured at their beginning by a profile picture of W. J. Locke, author of "Septimus."

The World To-Day.

Special articles of interest in The World To-day are Alexander Hume Ford's contributions on "Messina, a City That Was," and "A Street of a Thousand Miles," and Elias Tobenkin's query, "What If Russia Had a Lincoln?" "The Calendar of the Month" is a valuable finish to the magazine.

Everybody's.

The beginning of "The Title Market," Emily Post's Italo-American novel, has a place in Everybody's, and presents an attractive picture of a young American girl in the Roman court. A blow is aimed at Wall Street marginal gambling in "The Poison of the Street," by Frederick S. Dickson. Charles Edward Russell contrasts emigration life in American cities with that in Berlin to the disadvantage of the former. Mabel Herbert Uner's "Journal of a Neglected Wife" tells a sorrowful story, and the fourth instalment of "The Woman's Invasion," by William Hard and Rheta Childs Dorr, will be noted with interest.

Taylor-Trotwood Magazine.

M. L. McComb is the artist for the pretty color design illuminating the cover of the Taylor-Trotwood Magazine. "Washington, the Pioneer Champion—the Classics of the Rivers," by Charles J. Swift, is one of its best numbers. Elizabeth Edsall has a short story, which she calls "A Girl of the Plains."

The Atlantic Monthly.

John Buchan wields a cunning pen in the telling of his story, "The Company of the Marfollans," which makes part of a strong appeal to the fancy of the reader. Special writers who commend themselves highly are William Garbutt Brown, in "The Beaten Track," and W. Cameron Forbes, in "A Decade of American Rule in the Philippines." Fanny Kemble Johnson's story of youth, which she calls "Fanny and Her Happiness," is most delicious.

Outing.

Outing has a graphically written and aptly illustrated leading article by Charles Frederick Holder, which he calls "Along the American River." The charm of the Californian shores is plainly pictured in his pages. Agnes C. Laut writes entertainingly about "The First Families of Chicago" and the pioneer women of the West, and what David Buffum has to say about "How the Arabs Conquered" will give much pleasure to sportsmen.

Wytheville Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
WYTHEVILLE, VA., February 13.—Mrs. Kate Campbell was the hostess of the Five Hundred Club Tuesday afternoon at her home on Tazewell Street.

Mrs. R. L. Poage entertained the Whist Club Friday evening.

Dr. S. R. Sayers is much improved since his recent illness, and is now able to be out.

W. H. Spiller, who has been quite sick, is convalescent.

Miss Claire Heuser left Tuesday to visit friends in New York.

Miss Mary Preston Kent is in Roanoke this week, the guest of Miss Edmonia Gray.

Mrs. Will Moore and little daughter, Elizabeth, have returned from a visit to her brother, in Columbia, S. C.

Mrs. Williamson McGavock and Ephraim McGavock visited relatives in Wytheville this week as they returned from Maryland, where they attended the McGavock-Kelly nuptials.

Mrs. Jasse Stultz and son are at home after a visit to Commandant and Mrs. Jamerson, at Blacksburg.

Blacksburg Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
BLACKSBURG, VA., February 13.—Miss Anna Campbell was hostess at an informal reception Tuesday evening from 4 until 12 o'clock in honor of her cousin and house-guest, Miss Ruth Campbell, of Corinth, Miss.

Emma Walker entertained the younger society set at her home on Faculty Row Wednesday evening. The guests included the young women of the community and institute cadets.

Mrs. C. G. Guignard arrived from Columbia, S. C., this week to spend several months at the home of her father, J. M. McComb.

Captain S. H. Yonge, of Richmond; W. B. Hawkins, of Suffolk, and Carol Weisiger, of Ashland, spent a part of the week in Blacksburg.

Mrs. William D. Saunders and children have gone for a visit of several weeks at the home of Congressman Saunders, in the latter county.

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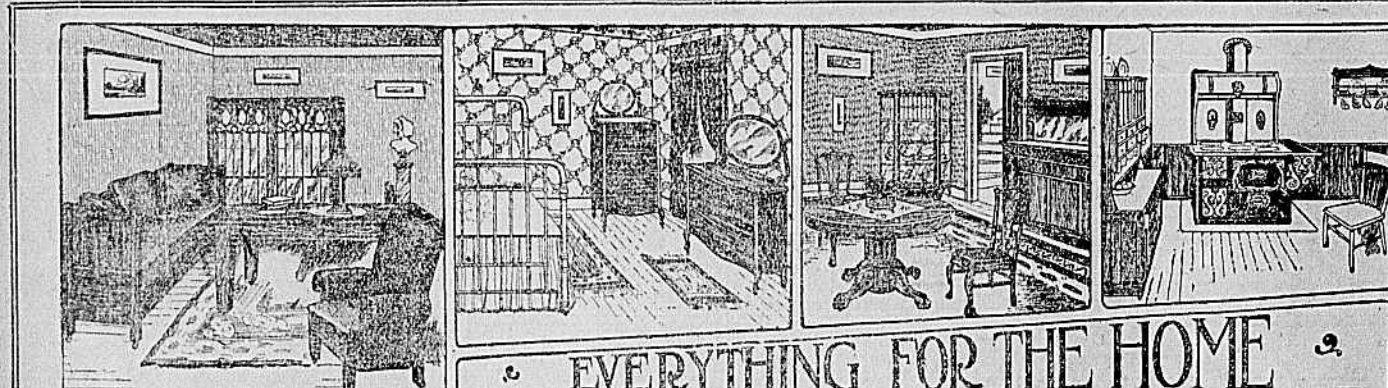
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